WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body having a photosensitive layer; and

an optical scanning device having a deflector deflecting a light flux emitted from a light source, and scanning the surface of said photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction, and

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said apparatus is further configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

$$Wm / Ws < 1$$

3. An optical scanning device comprising:

a deflector deflecting a light flux emitted from a light source, and scanning a surface of a photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction, and

wherein said device is configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

4. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said device is further configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

$$Wm / Ws < 1$$

5. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

a) emitting a light flux from a light source;

b) deflecting the light flux; and

c) scanning a surface of a photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction,

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan

direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

$$Wm / Ws < 1$$

7. An image forming apparatus comprising:

photosensitive means having a photosensitive layer; and

an optical scanning means having deflecting means for deflecting a light flux emitted by light emitting means, and scanning the surface of said photosensitive means by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive means defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive means defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive means defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

Wm / Ws < 1